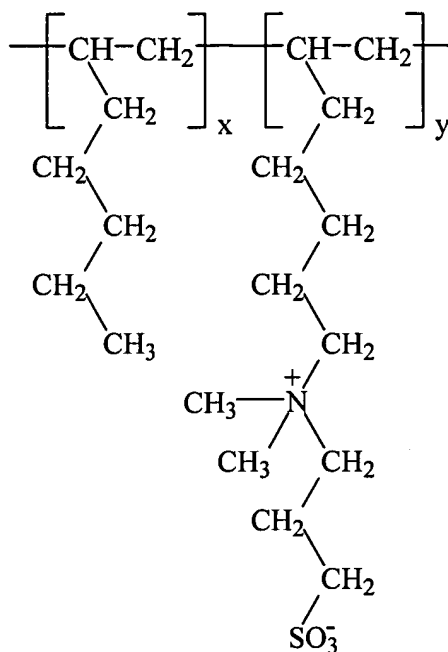


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The wellbore fluid of claim 9~~ A wellbore fluid comprising:
an aqueous fluid;
a viscostic surfactant;
a thickener soluble in the aqueous fluid,
wherein the thickener has a hydrophobic oligomeric or polymeric backbone made from
the reaction of alkene monomer or alkyne monomer, or mixtures thereof, and
wherein surfactant functional groups are attached to the hydrophobic backbone, wherein
the surfactant functional group is selected from: zwitterionic surfactant functional
groups, anionic surfactant functional groups, cationic surfactant functional
groups, and nonionic surfactant functional groups; and,
wherein the thickener has a molecular confirmation such that the surfactant functional
groups are hydrophilic and the hydrophobic oligomeric or polymeric backbone is
hydrophobic; and
wherein the combination of viscoelastic surfactant and thickener form micellar
assemblies such that the wellbore fluid thickener develops viscoelastic
characteristics, and
wherein the thickener has the following structure:



wherein $x + y = 2$ to 300,000.

11. (Original) The wellbore fluid of claim 10 wherein $x + y = 2$ to 36.
12. (Original) The wellbore fluid of claim 11 wherein the thickener is a salt of oligo- or poly-(α -alkene - ω - or α -alkyne-co- α -alkenyl - ω - or α -alkynyl - ω -quaternary ammonio-N,N,-dialkyl-N-alkylsulfonate).
13. (Original) The wellbore fluid of claim 11 wherein the thickener is oligo- or poly-(1-heptene-co-1-hepten-7-quaternary-ammonio-N,N,-dimethyl-N-propylsulfonate).
14. (Currently Amended) The wellbore fluid of claim ~~9~~ 10 wherein the viscoelastic surfactant is selected from the following: anionic, nonionic, amphoteric, zwitterionic, alcohols, alkanolamides, alkanolamines, alkylaryl sulfonates, alkylaryl sulfonic acids, amine acetates, amine oxides, amines, sulfonated amines, sulfonated amides, betaines, block polymers, carboxylated alcohols, alkylphenol ethoxylates, carboxylic acids, fatty acids, ethoxylated alcohols, ethoxylated alkylphenols, ethoxylated amines, ethoxylated amides, ethoxylated fatty acids, ethoxylated fatty esters, fatty esters, fluorocarbon-based surfactants, glycerol esters, glycol esters, heterocyclic surfactants, imidazolines, isethionates, lanolins, lecithins, methyl esters,

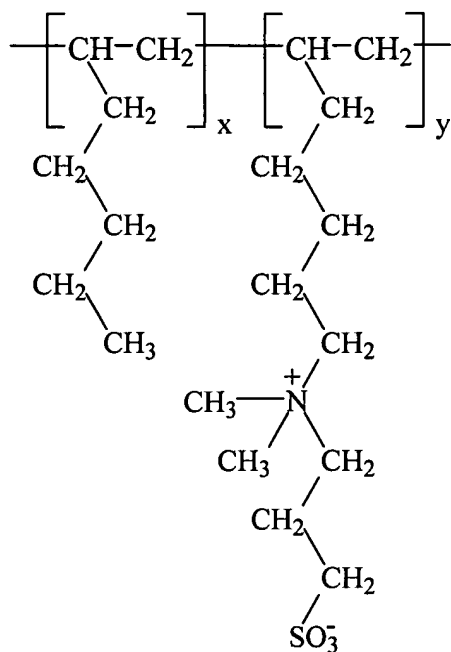
monoglycerides, olefin sulfonates, phosphate esters, polyethylene glycols, polysaccharides, polyacrylic acids, polyacrylamides, propoxylated alcohols, propoxylated alkylphenols, propoxylated amines, propoxylated amides, propoxylated fatty acids, propoxylated fatty esters, protein-based surfactants, quaternary surfactants, sarcosamines, silicone-based surfactants, soaps, sodium isethionate, sorbitans, sucrose and glucose esters, sulfates and sulfonates of oils and fatty acids, sulfates and sulfonates of ethoxylated alkylphenols, sulfates of alcohols, sulfates of ethoxylated alcohols, sulfates of fatty esters, sulfonates of hydrocarbons and petroleum, sulfosuccinates, taurates, and tridecyl and dodecyl benzene sulfonic acids and mixtures thereof.

15.-30. (Cancelled).

31. (Currently Amended) The wellbore fluid of claim 9 10 wherein the oligomers or polymers are crosslinked with polyvalent metal ions, formaldehyde, or glutaraldehyde.

32. (Original) The wellbore fluid of claim 31 wherein the polyvalent metal ions are selected from the following: Fe^{2+} , Cd^{2+} , Co^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , UO_2^{2+} , PbO^{2+} , Al^{3+} , Fe^{3+} , Cr^{3+} , Ce^{3+} , Ti^{4+} , Zr^{4+} , Sn^{4+} and mixtures thereof.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of making a wellbore fluid comprising blending:
an aqueous fluid phase;
a viscoelastic surfactant;
a water-soluble inorganic salt;
an oligomer or polymer soluble in an aqueous salt solution, the oligomer or polymer comprising a hydrophobic oligomeric or polymeric backbone made from the oligomerization or polymerization of alkene or alkyne monomer groups, or mixtures thereof, the oligomer or polymer further comprising zwitterionic functional groups attached to the hydrophobic backbone, wherein the oligomer or polymer is hydrophilic in the zwitterionic functional groups and hydrophobic in the backbone hydrocarbon chain to form micellar assemblies such that the oligomers or polymers develop viscoelastic character prior to a polymerization step,
wherein the thickener has the following structure:



wherein $x + y = 2$ to 300,000.

34.-36. (Cancelled)